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U.S. Officer Says Soviet Tested 2 New Missiles

WASHINGTON, April 26 (Reuters) — An American general said today that there was abundant evidence that the Soviet Union had test-fired two new nuclear missiles, but he said it was difficult for United States intelligence agencies to prove it.

Gen. Bennie L. Davis, commander of the Strategic Air Command, said the lack of absolute proof was probably the reason that President Reagan did not accuse Moscow last week of violating a United States-Soviet agreement not to develop new missiles.

"I believe there is a chain of evidence," General Davis told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "There's no question that two missiles different from any others have been test-fired."

"But with the move toward encryption of telemetry" — encoding of data on missile firing — "it is difficult for the technical intelligence community to prove beyond a shadow of doubt that indeed they are two new missiles," he said.

"And I'm sure that has a lot to do with the President's reluctance to state that, to hold himself up to criticism," General Davis said.